



THE

RecyCool PLANET

The Official RecyCool Club Publication

Summer Edition

Summer Salutations from Recycle Rex!

Hey, all my RecyCool friends, I'm sure that most of you are as happy as I am that it's SUMMERTIME. Looking ahead to lots of fun this season like going to the beach, watching a baseball or soccer game, and hanging out with friends!

This year, there are so many important things we need to do to save ENERGY and our EARTH. Recycling is such an easy and important way to do both of these things. Did you know that almost 3 million water bottles are going into the trash EVERYDAY? If we don't recycle these bottles, it can take them as many as 700 years to rot or decompose. Which means that if you were to throw your plastic bottle in the garbage today, it will just sit in the landfill (or dump) until the year 2703... that's a long, long time! We all need to do a much better job making sure all aluminum, glass and plastic beverage containers get recycled!

This issue of the RecyCool Planet has lots of fun facts, games and tips about recycling and reusing your bottles and cans. I hope you can do your part and share this information with your family, friends, and even your teachers. Have a very safe and happy summer...and more importantly, be "RECY-COOL" in saving energy and natural resources by recycling and reusing your beverage containers!

Congratulations



Congratulations to all the RecyCool Club Graduates! If this is the fourth newsletter you've received from me, you've officially graduated from my RecyCool Club! You can continue to learn about recycling, reducing, reusing and closing the loop on my website: www.conservation.ca.gov

Look for the "Kids Only" section. Please remember to recycle where you live, learn and play!

Energy Conservation Tips



- Ask your parents to set your thermostat to 78 degrees when you are home and 85 degrees or off when you are away. Using ceiling or room fans allows you to set the thermostat higher because the air movement will cool the room.
- To help prevent electrical outages, avoid running your appliances during peak hours, -- from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. -- or anytime an electrical emergency is declared.
- On hot days, draw the curtains and/or shades to keep the sun out. Remember to close doors to the outside to keep in cooler air.
- Turn off the lights when you leave a room.
- Limit the time you spend on the computer. Also, turn off your computer when you are done using it.
- Turn off the radio when you are done listening.
- Instead of turning the TV on, read a book or play a game.
- Decide what you would like to eat BEFORE you open the refrigerator.
- Remind your parents to make sure loads are full when they do the laundry.
- Conserve energy by running your dishwasher only when it is fully loaded, and turn off the dry cycle and air dry dishes instead.
- Ask your parents to use motion sensitive lights instead of leaving the porch light on all night.
- Remind your parents to look for the energy star label when purchasing appliances.
- Recycle!



For more energy conservation tips, visit
flexyourpower.com



Summer Sand Bottles



This is an easy and fun project to do! A great project to make and give to your mom, dad or teacher to put on their desk!

What You Need

- Clean sand
- Newspaper (make sure everyone in your house has already read through it!)
- Colored chalk (as many different colors as you like - the more the better)
- See through glass or plastic bottle with cap
- Funnel
- Stick
- White glue
- A piece of heavy paper or cardboard

How To Make It

1. Put down some newspaper for your working surface.
2. Fold the heavy paper or cardboard in half. (The crease in the paper or cardboard will help get the sand into the bottle, but make sure you fold it in half before putting the sand on it!)
3. Place a few handfuls of sand on the heavy paper or cardboard.
4. Take your colored chalk and crush it in with the sand, until the sand turns that color.
5. Put the funnel in the bottle.
6. Lift the paper or board filled with colored sand and empty the sand into bottle using the funnel.
7. Take the stick and make a few bumps in the sand. This will create "waves" of color in the sand.
8. Repeat steps 3-7, using a different color of sand each time, until the bottle is almost full. Leave about 1/2 inch at the top.
9. Press the sand down firmly; be careful not to move the bottle around or the sand will move around and the colors will get mixed together.
10. Pour some glue in to the remaining 1/2 inch of the bottle, and let it dry. Screw the bottle cap on.
11. Don't forget to tidy up!



HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE OUR TRASH TO DECOMPOSE (BREAK DOWN INTO SMALL PIECES)?

Draw a line from the item on the left to the length of time you think it takes for it to breakdown into small pieces once it reaches the dump. Follow the example provided.

Aluminum cans 450-1,000 years

Glass bottles and jars 700 years

Plastic bottles and jugs 80-100 years

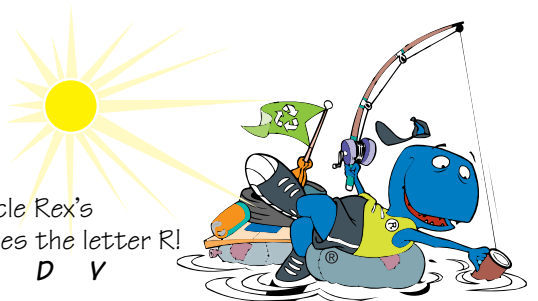
Plastic bags and disposable diapers 2-4 weeks

Orange and banana peels 1-5 months

School papers and newspaper 10-20 years

Plastic toy 2-5 weeks

Cotton shirt 1,000,000 years



Rex's Mystery Phrase

Plug in the letters listed below in the correct spaces and figure out what Recycle Rex's mystery phrase is! You may use each letter more than once. Hint: Rex really likes the letter R!

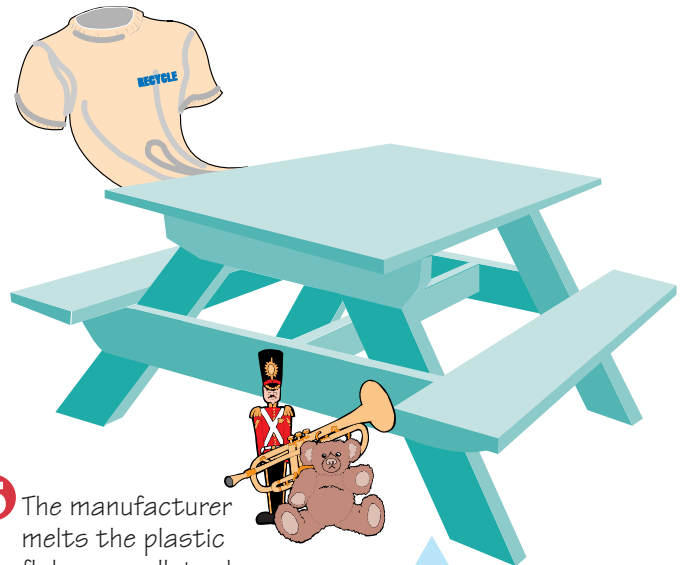
Letters to use: C X S L Y B R P M G H T N K D V

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How are Plastic Bottles Recycled?

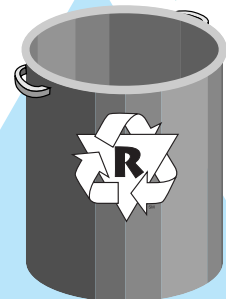
Recycle Rex and his friends wanted to know the answer to this question one warm, summer day while picking up recyclables in their local park. So they went to their local recycling center and found out!

- 1 Plastic containers are brought to the recycling center where they are sorted by type and sometimes color. They are crushed together and formed into a huge cube or bale.



- 5 The manufacturer melts the plastic flakes or pellets down for molding into new products like:

- fiberfill for sleeping bags
- plastic lumber
- containers for non-food products
- toys
- compost bins
- rulers
- T-shirts



- 2 The bales of plastic are shipped to a plastics processing plant.

- 3 The plastic is broken apart and shredded into flakes or pellets and then cleaned.



- 4 The flakes or pellets are shipped to manufacturers of plastic goods.

Use the list of words below
to help you complete
each sentence.



REDUCE RECYCLE CLOSING THE LOOP
LANDFILLS ENERGY REUSABLE
MONEY BULK RECYCLING CENTER

1. _____ means to buy items made from recycled materials.
2. Our garbage gets buried in huge holes in the ground called _____ or dumps.
3. If we _____ our used plastic bottles, they can be made into new products such as T-shirts, a binder, ruler or carpet.
4. Recycling saves _____.
5. You can get _____ for redeeming your glass, plastic and aluminum beverage containers at your nearest recycling center.
6. If we _____ the amount of garbage we throw away, we will help save landfill space.
7. Bring your lunch in a _____ lunch bag.
8. Buying things in _____ will help cut down on the amount of packaging we throw away.
9. You can call 1-800-RECYCLE to find out where your nearest _____ is located.

Answer to Rex's Mystery Phrase:

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How long does it take our trash to decompose answer table:



Aluminum cans = 80-100 years

Glass bottles and jars = 1,000,000 years

Plastic bottles and jugs = 700 years

Plastic bags and disposable diapers = 10-20 years

Orange and banana peels = 2-5 weeks


School papers and newspaper = 2-4 weeks

Plastic toy = 450-1,000 years

Cotton shirt = 1-5 months



ANSWERS TO SENTENCE COMPLETION GAME

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1. Closing the loop means to buy items made from recycled materials.
 2. Our garbage gets buried in huge holes in the ground called landfills or dumps.
 3. If we recycle our used plastic bottles, they can be made into new products such as T-shirts, a binder, a ruler or carpet.
 4. Recycling saves energy.
 5. You can get money for redeeming your glass, plastic and aluminum beverage containers at your nearest recycling center.
 6. If we reduce the amount of garbage we throw away, we will help save landfill space.
 7. Bring your lunch in a reusable lunch bag.
 8. Buying things in bulk will help cut down on the amount of packaging we throw away.
 9. You can call 1-800-RECYCLE to find out where your nearest recycling center is located.

